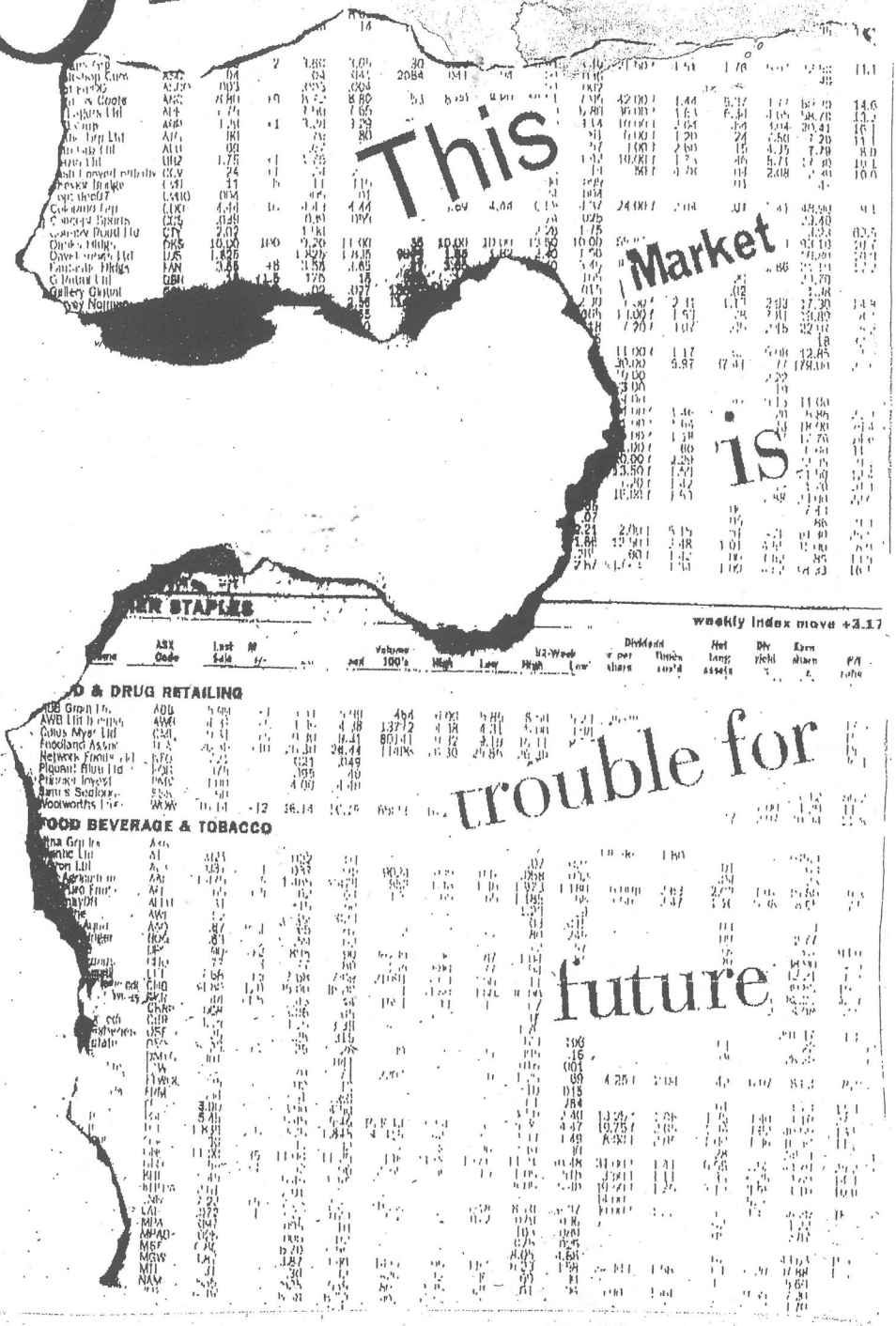
NO for Bes 500

This Market is trouble for future



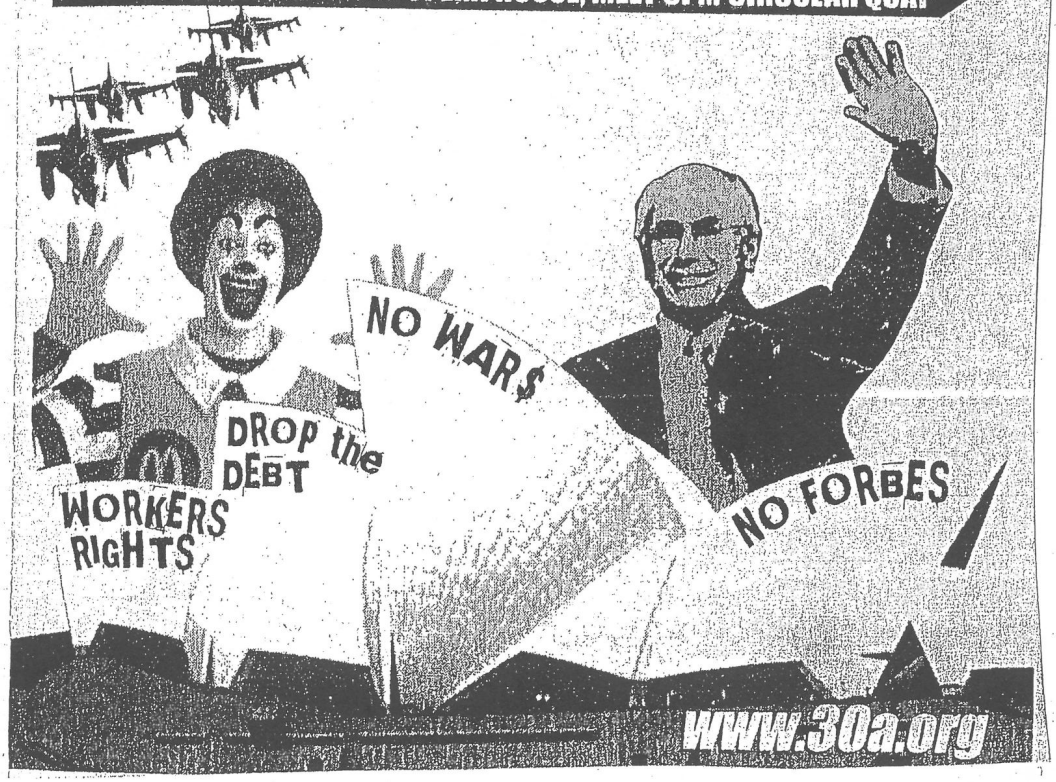
NO TO WAR!
NO TO CORPORATE GREED!

PROTEST the FORBES

Global CEO Conference @ the Opera House

TUESDAY 30th AUGUST

CONVERGE ON THE OPERA HOUSE, MEET 5PM CIRCULAR QUAY



www.30a.org

Atomising Power.

By Frew.

The Forbes 500 is a meeting of the Worlds richest people. However they dress it up, it's sole aim is to continue the dominance of the many by the few. Those inside the meeting represent the Global Elite, they dominate information through the control of the media. They dominate the economy through the control of Productive Property (factories and offices). They dominate the realm of ideas through Intellectual Property Rights. They are defended by most Governments as will be demonstrated by the wall of Police between those inside the meeting and those outside.

Journalism is losing its critical value, politicians are inevitably hypocritical and the wealthy expect everyone to serve their interests. The entire system is corrupt. Many people have realised this which is marked by the Apathy with which many approach politics. Cynicism is rife, because it is self evident that politicians are generally self serving and will 'spin' any issue to give themselves short term political advantage.

Those inside the meeting will be arguing for 'increased liberalization,' they want an end to interference by the State. I couldn't agree more. The irony is that they forget that Corporations are Economic Principalities and each one constitutes a State in its own right. They need to be abolished along with all Nation States.

The Union campaign against the Co-alition's Industrial Relations reforms is marked by controlled top down organising that is aimed at muting the left wing of

the movement as much as defeating the legislation. This is because the majority of Union leaders are members of the same Labor Party that will be ordering out the Cops to defend the Forbes 500. Just as they have to campaign against the IR reforms, they have to appease the Multi-Nationals thirst for profit. To threaten a Corporation's profits is to incur the wrath of the Corporate media and to risk a lucrative career in parliament.

If the Union bureaucrats who claim to represent the workers have interests other than the well being of the workers, what hope is there for ordinary people to have their views represented by anyone? Is there a single view 'of the working people'? Can 'the will of the people' be embodied in a single organisation?

Each person has their own mix of thoughts and ideas and knows what is best for them, better than anyone else. The only way to end the domination of one by another is to empower each person by giving them control over their own destinies. Giving is perhaps the wrong word, we have to encourage them to take their own Power, themselves. This goes globally for every oppressed person.

> We aren't Pawns, we are part of the board, and I want to pack up and go home.

In this regard we need to be able to keep society in a state of permanent (R)evolution. Everyone needs to have the right to form and leave social organisations as they see fit. If a negative structure of control forms, then

another grouping can arise without a need to struggle against the old. I think there is a similarity between this and the way Capitalists constantly revolutionise the means of production in order to successfully compete. We need to constantly revolutionise the means of social organisation in order to keep life from getting stale, stagnating, hierarchical structures getting formed and once again dominating humanity for the interests of a few. Being outmoded socially is a lot easier to address than being outmoded economically, if the right to leave and join new organisations is guaranteed.

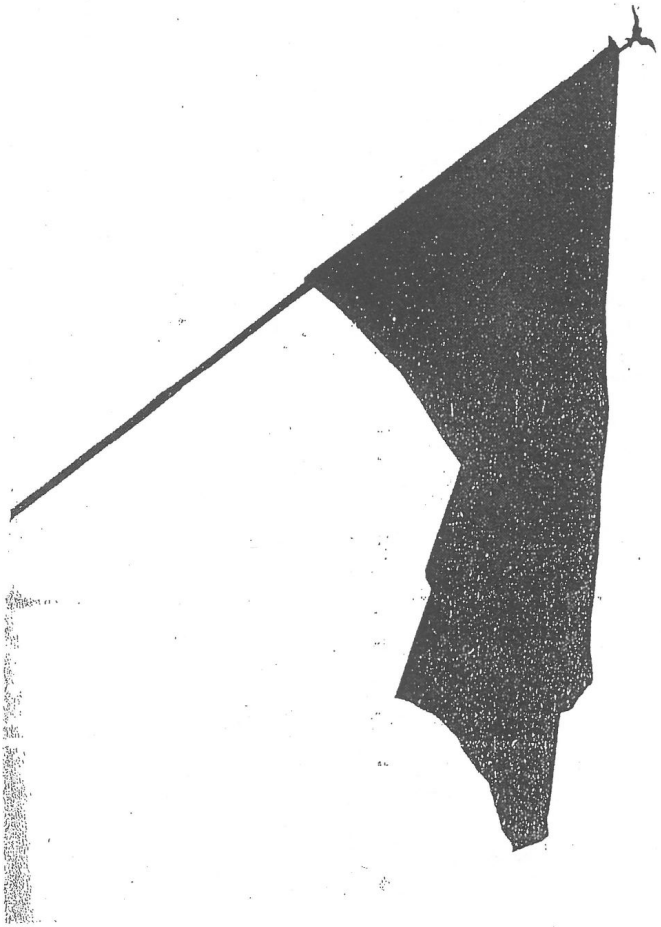
With the continued hypocrisy by all of those who support the domination of one over another there is much fertile land to cultivate our ideas of Freedom and Equality, which can only be achieved by convincing everyone that they are capable of deciding what is right for themselves.

The greatest Power should rest with the smallest unit,

The Atomisation of Power.

Look Honey, That's the man who tells the people on TV what to say.

usurp
the future.



AGAINST THEIR WAR AGAINST THEIR PEACE

The general offensive of Capital and the functionaries of Power upon the multitude have continually intensified in recent years. As a result of this it more often than not seems that we are in a constant state of defeat and retreat, becoming less able and less willing to confront and transcend the order of Empire. The general malaise in socially articulated class struggle within Australia gives proof to the weaknesses of the struggle in its capacity to actualise revolt. Or rather, in an era characterised by such fierce violence administered by the functionaries of Power, how do we construct a space whereby the micro-revolts undertaken by individuals in their daily lives can weave into a social tapestry of revolt sophisticated and strong enough to actually reappropriate our own lives and communities? For general malaise or no, our era is characterised by severe tension, and one force within this relationship is constituted by the movement of people against the constricting discipline of capital, against the permanent state of war, and against the racism and destruction of contemporary capitalism. In order to assess how we

might create a rupture in this malaise, and spur on more widespread and direct confrontation with capital, we should look at some tendencies within Power and discipline that are occurring globally, and some of the local struggles taking place. It is only within this context that we might draw the lines and relationships to sustain a multitudinous revolt, moving towards revolution. Moreover, in this way we may avoid the abyss of traditional left struggle, beyond protests, to construct revolutionary lives.

The War on Terror has crystallised the tendency of Power, developing over the previous years, into a structure of absolute discipline and full spectrum war. Obviously, war has been a characteristic of many forms of human society, particularly under capitalism – from the world wars, the anti-colonial guerrilla uprisings and the regional sphere of influence wars of cold war imperialism. We now live in the era of armed globalisation and the War on Terror. Both of these realities position war in a central role within everyday social relations, and an inherent, permanent and necessary foundation for the sustaining of capitalism in its current form. From the perspective of economic expansion, the era of globalisation has often been founded upon the destruction of subsistence

economies, which had hitherto remained relatively autonomous, in order to be subsumed within the flows of contemporary capitalism.[1] In this way war has often been the precursor, expression and/or result of capitalist globalisation, and has been directly linked to the structural adjustment plans of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the like. As Capital assumes more of a direct and central role in the disciplining, administering and controlling of our lives across the world, hanging all upon the hinge of the market, those regions left behind in the age of imperialism suffer greater violence and exploitation at the hands of capital in the age of Empire. The failure of the structural adjustment plans to achieve even the goals set out within their own parameters have left the people who were to be exploited by said plans, struggling among the many heaped ruins of contemporary capitalism. War becomes the general result of this kind of situation, as the means of subsistence is hijacked and colonised by the smooth flows of capital, only to soon collapse and leave nothing but ruin, precipitating war and imperial military intervention. This promotes factionalism and

[1] For a useful discussion of this aspect of postmodern capitalism see Sylvia Federici's "War, Globalisation and Reproduction" in The Neo-liberal Wars, Treason Press

war as the indigenous ruling class fight for state power, in order to benefit from the intervention of international capital into the previously national or communal economies. These tendencies are central to the capitalist subsumption of global economies. They are evidence also of the ways in which the market and the flows of capital are becoming the determining factor in global governance and discipline. Any direct responsibility and institutional commitment to incapacitated regions from the national powers has given way to the adjustment programs and the construction of the free market.

Further evidence of the growing role of private capital in the construction of the world order is seen in the growing industry of private armies. The war in Iraq marks the highest point of development in this trend. The industry, which has been estimated to be worth approximately $100 billion a year, has seen the rapid growth in the number of privately hired soldiers involved in combat across the world, occurring alongside a trend towards downsizing the military. In Iraq the ratio of military to private soldiers is said to be 10:1, illustrating a radical growth in the number of private combatants from the estimated 100:1 in the first Gulf War. Private contractors are now the second

largest contributors to the war in Iraq after the Pentagon. The role of these private contractors extends beyond that of combat and support of the military, assuming a pivotal role in the post war construction, to ensure conditions suitable for the continued intervention of capital. They also provide training for the domestic police force, protection of state personnel and the reps of foreign capital. Similarly, these armies often become involved in the 'humanitarian' side of war, becoming integral participants in such projects as food aid and peacekeeping. These particular campaigns provide the front for the continued presence of foreign military, the policing of economic adjustment and development, and sustaining the dependency of the war torn populations upon the growing intervention of foreign capital.

The blurring of the distinction between war and peace is becoming more evident within the privileged regions of Empire. The governments of various nation states have issued in this situation through their actions both internationally and domestically. In many respects there is a growing homogeneity within some of the more powerful states concerning both war making and domestic policing. The War on Terror has

meant the intensification of the policing practices of national governments. The response of the English government to the bombings there, a crackdown resulting in a fatal shooting, and the support it has received for its actions is illustrative of the lengths governments are prepared to take, and the legitimacy they assume to have in doing so. It should be obvious that none of us have anything to gain through the growing powers of the state and intelligence services.

It is clear that there is an intense, efficient and sustained offensive being undertaken by capital and its functionaries to undermine, colonise, oppress and exploit all people across the world. The success of capital in subsuming all means of subsistence, and occupying all space that existed outside its own flows, has profound implications for the form and space of struggle. These implications will appear contradictory, however only superficially. In the very first place, the colonisation of everyday life, which has been so successful in terms of the occupation of space by capital, is the cause of the micro-revolts that occur throughout the fabric of Empire. From the smallest element of refusal to overt confrontation, a weakness is detected in this regime of discipline and control.

The reality of these occurrences should not be forgotten. On the other hand, it seems that for us to seriously confront and challenge capital, we have to focus on the totality of force and relations that constitute Empire. Struggle focusing on the totality, however, does not mean that it should seek to homogenise itself. Any attempt to guide resistance through a strict protocol of responses to capital is bound to leash the self organising of the multitude, fail, and ultimately strengthen capital. What we do not need then, is to homogenise struggle through the construction of formal, leading organisations that thrive through the quelling of organic resistance. Rather, the struggle needs to define the character of any of its organisations. Any such organisation should provide a space for the micro-revolts to be shared and socialised, for the experience of broader struggles to be shared, and to facilitate the development of sustainable relationships between the arrays of struggles taking place. Organisation is secondary to the impetus of struggle. In recognising this, and not attempting to rigidify a particular struggle upon the premise, logic and formation of a leading organisational body, the common to us all and these movements can be identified. In this way resistance

will not only precede Power and Capital, but overthrow and abolish them.

mark

Monsanto Cloning Laboritories. The CIA's cloned Leigon of S.S. are ready. Complete with their Fuhrer and Captain Amerikkka they prepare to invade Koreistan.

It looks like a Young Republican convention...

What do you mean, we are to invade Koreistan, there is no such place!! What kind of Imbecile are we working for???

Adolf Hitler, the Second was informed that he was working for Amerikkka. Their knowledge of geography was apalling. His father remarked that the CIA agent who helped him escape Germany after the War kept asking to see the rhinoceroses from Rhineland.

That Kind of imbecile... We can use this to our advantage. Well armed idiots can be easily manipulated, just look at my Army!

Hitler is informed that it is time to meet the infamous Dubya!

So I now get to meet this shaven Monkey. If a fool like that can dupe the Amerikkan population, imagine what I could do!

CAPTAIN AMERIKKKA

By Frew.

All images stolen from Marvel. Fuck Copyright. Intellectual Property Is Theft.

The West Wing. President Bush has redecorated for his visitors
Hooray!! Capt. Amerikkka and Adam Hitler are coming
Thats Adolf sir. Please try to remember.
Dick Chainme and Paw Wolfowitz arrive.
Heil Dubyya! We're back from the Monsanto Labs with the clones
Tell Laura to make a bowl of her world famous Sour Crate.
Show them in Dick. Get them a drink of beer and some pop corn. Tell the media, this is to be one of those photo oppositions!!!
After a debate that raged for hours, Dubya had to accept the following:
1. Not all really recognisable people are good for publicity.
2. Hitler had killed millions of people and therefore had a marketabilty problem.
3. He hadn't killed as many people as Hitler.
4. That counting everyone that Amerikkka killed was too hard and bad its for image.
Sir, this is your new commander in chief. Captain Amerikkka. and Fuhrer of the S.S. Adolf Hitler.
You mean that idiot if my Boss?!? I wont stand for it!

Sorry Adolph, you have trained them well but you have outlived your usefulness. Now its time to die!

Kill him now.

Double Crossed! My plans ruined!
You are truly diabolical.

Dick, you're my kind of man.

What a pussy. Please don't kill me. Please dont kill me. Well atleast his soldiers will come in handy for shooting any of the civilians I miss.

Just got to find the biggest group of people I can for these Super-Duper Halliburtonn Depleted Uranium Daisy Chains. That stadium will do nicely.

Man I love this job. Killing people from 4 miles up!! They'll give me a medal for this!!!

Boeing.

Attacking Pyong Yang on Chinese New Year was a good idea. Maximum Casualties!!!

Oblivious, the people of North Korea celebrate N.Y.E. Whilst death rains from above, and Dick makes another couple of Mill.

Pyong Yang is aflame. Vice President, Dick Chainme leads the ground assault, testing his new gun.

The Bombs dont Miss.

Dont kill everyone. Dead people don't need reconstruction or security, nor will they work for $2 a day.

Did you do all this? I find death a turn-on!
It was all me Paris! Amerikkka is safe from all of those *Terrorists*
You find everything a turn-on. Yesterday I caught you with Dick.
But I always knew that you loved Dick more than me

With the Amerikkkan Military Industrial Complex safe from Communism/Terrorism (whatever), the oil supply secured for the next six months and all subsidiary rights sold off to News Limited. The freedom to exploit was looking safe. It was time to count the profits from the invasion. Unfortunately North Korea wasn't as profitable as Iraq, but still not a bad haul.

Payday! It makes my job worthwhile.
I thought you liked to kill.
That stone is turning me on!
Paris, I wouldn't do anything unless I get paid.
Me too, Me too.

War is Terror.

subplot:

a convergence of anarchistic ideas and actions

Friday 26th - Monday 29th August
Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, Sydney

At the Sydney Opera House from August 30th, under the name of something not worth mentioning*, the heads of some of the richest and most influential corporations in the world will gather. A mocking fuck you from those responsible for labour abuses, environmental destruction, war profiteering, etc, etc. A fuck you that implies nothing we do can resist the paths they plot for global capitalism.

But every storyline is made up of many subplots. This is ours.

In spite of all that has passed we continue to gather. In spite of military policing, anti-terror laws and general state oppression. So we invite all interested in stuff like anarchism, autonomism, independent ratbaggery, community organising, radical action and general everyday resistance to participate in this convergence. As an act of defiance in itself and also to make specific plans for protests against the corporate soiree at the Opera House. Most importantly, to inspire each other, to envisage, to create, to incite and to plot for the longer term. To truly move our protest from one-off action into the territory of everyday life.

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*Ok, it's the Forbes Global CEO conference; this means around 400 executives from the richest and most influential corporations in the world will be meeting at the Sydney Opera House. While not a policy-making body, it has the power to influence policy as demonstrated by the presence of John Howard and Bob Carr as guest speakers.

So bring your creativity and inspiration. And your anger and frustration. We want to discuss all aspects of resistance and creating revolutionary change. Subplot aims to explore our affinities though a diversity of workshops around ideas and tactics of organised autonomous resistance, for the Forbes protests and ongoing resistance. So far we know there willbe workshops on anarcho-feminism, anti-racism, practical guerrilla art, environmental justice and the corporate take-over of Iraq.

Subplot is happening alongside the Sydney Social Forum (SSF)**. On Saturday we will be presenting a stream of workshops as part of the SSF in an effort to build connections with other groups whose struggles overlap with ours. The next two days will be held at a nearby but separate venue, in order to create a space to explore our political commonalities. On the Monday time and space will be set aside to, hopefully, put the ideas, networks and affinities developed at the conference into practice in preparation for the Forbes protests. The weekend will also have plenty of time for socialising and it all starts, of course, with a launch party on Friday night.

Subplot will always be a work in progress, made from what all participants bring. If you'd like to organise a workshop or raise ideas you think need to be discussed, please get in touch.

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**An open space conference promoting solidarity and cooperation between political, community and NGO based activists.

NO TO WAR!
NO TO CORPORATE GREED!

PROTEST
the FORBES
Global CEO Conference @ the Opera House

TUESDAY 30th AUGUST
CONVERGE ON THE OPERA HOUSE, MEET 5PM CIRCULAR QUAY

www.30a.org

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WHY ARE WE PROTESTING?

BECAUSE CEO's COST THE EARTH!

On 30 August 2005 one of the world's richest men Steve Forbes and NSW Premier Bob Carr will host the fifth annual Forbes Global CEO Conference at the Sydney Opera House.

The Opera House will be taken over by more than 300 CEOs - representing some of the world's biggest war profiteers, environmental vandals and corporate crooks. Like the World Trade Organisation and the World Economic Forum, the Global CEO Conference is a means of promoting economic and social policies that benefit the rich and the powerful at the expense of the majority of the world's people and the environment.

For example, John Howard - who is opening the conference - will have taken total control of both houses of parliament. In addition to more privatisation, attacks on students and universities, putting mining rights before Indigenous rights, locking up refugees, part of the Liberals aggressively (neo)conservative agenda will be full scale attacks on unions and the right of workers to organise. Howard's aim is an industrial relations system for profit making, more legal power for already dominant employers and more exploitation. One of the mechanisms that the corporate elite use to promote such policies and try to influence public opinion is the Forbes Global CEO Conference.

A $5000 a head event restricted to top executives means that you're not invited - but you can come anyway by joining the 30A protests. By mobilising in big numbers on 30A we can show that the Forbes CEO Conference and the policies that it represents are not going ahead unopposed.

If you think that corporations have too much power then you should join us on Tuesday, 30 August.

NO TO WAR! - NO TO CORPORATE GREED!
WORKERS RIGHTS, DROP THE DEBT, NO WAR$, NO FORBES

MEET: 5:00pm, 30 August, Circular Quay

GET INVOLVED

We meet every Tuesday at 6.30 at the Gallic Club - Level 3, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills - only 2mins from central station.

The 30 Network is made up of people like you - activists, trade unionists, concerned citizens, artists. Why not come and help out? Your ideas and energy are welcome. Check www.30a.org for meeting times.

CONTACT: Kris 0431 370 148
Vince 0438 800 244
Info@30a.org

For more info about 30A related actions & events visit:

www.30a.org

& www.sydneysocialforum.org

Biotechnology and Capitalism

The Corporate Biotech Agenda and the Struggle for Democracy

Global biotech companies argue that agricultural biotechnology is all about feeding the poor, saving the environment and improving global health. This high sounding rhetoric disguises the nature of capitalism. Corporations' objective is to return a profit to their shareholders. Corporations are legally bound to put profit making above any other interest.[1]

Critics of biotechnology typically adopt a narrow, reformist agenda which seeks greater governmental regulation, labeling and more stringent safety standards. This cautious approach ignores the fundamental danger posed by corporate biotechnology - the privatization of every aspect of life. Disguised in debates about scientific validity are fundamental questions about who owns and controls our lives and our means of subsistence. An increasingly small number of global corporations is seeking to dominate the entire world food supply. Whether these foods are labeled as containing genetically modified organisms or not the danger is the exclusion of the majority of human beings from their most fundamental rights to food. In their search for new markets the biopirates are seeking new acquisitions in the genetic makeup of human and non-human beings.

Biotechnology corporations and their allies in national and transnational bodies such as the United States and the World Bank are responsible for causing many of the problems which they now claim to be trying to solve. The diversion of third world resources from subsistence farming into the production of cash crops has been

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[1] *The Corporation*, dir. Mark Achbar and Jennifer Abbott, prod. M. Achbar and Bart Simpson, 145 min., Madman Cinema, DVD.

brought about by successive waves of corporate globalisation. This has in turn created new markets for products such as "Golden Rice". The "Green Revolution" was the name given by corporate marketers to the introduction of monoculture cropping systems into countries such as India, thereby creating markets for herbicides such as Monsanto's Round-Up. Now the very same corporations which fostered the adoption of chemical agriculture are claiming to hold the solutions to its problems in their biotech patents. Similarly, corporate biotech proposes to engineer solutions to salinity and drought which ignore the complex underlying causes of these problems. Engineering a plant which can take up salt into its leaves is no substitute for a radical restructuring of water and land use patterns in salinity prone areas.

Biotechnology advocates claim that this technology holds the potential to many of the problems facing our society and our world. Do these claims stand up? Are the crises in the environment and in agriculture amenable to a purely technical fix?

Feeding the World's Poor using Biotechnology

Biotech corporations often claim that they are concerned about feeding the world's poor. Supporters of biotech too, articulate this concern, legitimating the corporate agenda. Dr Stanley Wallach of the American College of Nutrition claims that "public health experts

are beginning to see a glimmer of hope for the developing world from breakthroughs in biotechnology."[2]

The assumption underlying this statement is that world hunger is a technical problem which can be solved by improving scientific agriculture. This technological approach to hunger and starvation is based on a number of false premises. The leading cause of world hunger, far from a lack of technology, is actually armed conflict closely followed by HIV/AIDS and climate change.[3]

The poor do not have access to food in an oppressive capitalist system because corporations produce food for profit. The goal of transnational food corporations is to make their stockholders rich, not to feed the world's poor. These profits are made by selling to

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[2] Stanley Wallach, "Biotechnology - A tool to end world hunger," *Biotechnology - An Information Resource*, 5 April2001, <http://www.usda.gov/bic/> (25 May 2005).

[3] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Assessment Of The World Food Security Situation*, Committee on World Food Security, 31st Session, Rome, 23-26 May 2005.

consumers who have enough wealth to pay high prices, not the poor, many of whom subsist on less than a dollar a day.[4]

The multitudes of hungry people in this world are actively engaged in autonomous, self-directed struggles to free themselves and their families and communities from the oppression of capital and the state. The National Land Committee is one such network which links up groups in South Africa who are fighting for a just redistribution of land. While the poor require land for housing and agriculture the South African government is busy selling off coastal land and creating game parks and golf courses for the private enjoyment of the rich. Following the success of the anti-apartheid struggle many black people in South Africa expected the government would implement land reform. Although policies exist they are devoid of meaning as the government refuses to implement them. Meanwhile poverty in South Africa remains an enormous problem with an estimated 70% of people living in poverty. In this context the movements of landless people in South Africa are occupying and employing land in defiance of the government. Despite its rhetoric the government remains in the service of wealthy white farmers and opposes the landless peoples' struggle. It is this kind of social oppression which is causing hunger and poverty, not the lack of corporate biotechnology.

Biotechnology and Chemical Agriculture

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[4] William D. Heffernan, "Biotechnology and Mature Capitalism," *11th Annual Meeting of the National Agricultural Biotechnology Council*, June 6-8, 1999, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Corporations claim that biotechnology will be an antidote to the problems inherent in chemical agriculture because genetically engineered plants will reduce the need for the application of herbicides and pesticides to crops.

The green revolution saw the introduction of chemicals into agricultural production in many parts of the world, including India. Chemical agriculture relies on pumping large amounts of expensive inputs into the soil which must be purchased from the large transnational chemical companies. Those farmers who have adopted chemical agriculture are finding it increasingly difficult to afford the expensive inputs their farms now require. Alternative technologies such as seed saving are proving to be more productive and sustainable. Increasing numbers of farmers in India are committing suicide as they are unable to pay their debts for fertilizers and chemicals. This form of agriculture relies on the formation of monocultures which in turn makes crops more susceptible to insect and diseases. Alternative forms of agriculture, such as permaculture attempt to solve the problems of pest and diseases by engineering the system to be resistant without the use of external inputs. This makes the systems more sustainable and is more effective.

Biotechnology as Savior of the Environment

Biotechnology advocates claim that its adoption will enable us to solve a number of pressing environmental issues such as salinity by engineering plants which are tailor made to process these environmental pollutants. These claims rest on a single, unstated claim about the nature of these problems: that they are technical or engineering problems and hence that technology will be adequate to fix them.

These assumptions are false. They rely upon a reductionist interpretation of the natural and social worlds which reduces the complexity of human and non-human life to the manipulation of genes in a laboratory. These arguments are instrumentalist in that they treat non-human life, such as animals and plants, as mere tools to be used and abused for the benefit of human beings. Furthermore, the advocates of biotechnology, generally in the direct or indirect employ of the great biotechnology corporations or the state, mystify and obfuscate the class conflict that is inherent in these social problems.

Attempting to fiddle around the edges of the global ecological crisis will not result in significant gains. The problem of salinity in the Murray-Darling river system is a case in point. Biotechnology may well be able to engineer a plant which will take up excess salt into its leaves. However, what is the cause of the salinity problem? Salinity is occurring due to the overuse of irrigation and extensive land clearing to make way for sheep and cattle grazing and monoculture cropping systems. This highly inefficient form of

agriculture should not be propped up by a salt-harvesting plant but scrapped and replaced with diverse agricultural systems based on the cycles of life.

Monsanto's Golden Rice - Helping others help children to see?

This touching image of an Asian child being given the gift of sight by the benevolent Monsanto appears on the company's website. In a sickening attempt to capitalise on the poor eye health of many of the world's children Monsanto are marketing the genetically engineered rice as "Golden Rice" which, with its increased Vitamin A content will "deliver the gift of better nutrition to the developing nations of the world." Together with the corporate criminals at the Rockefeller Foundation, Monsanto and the European Union are attempting to gain market penetration into a part of the world which has refused to accept their products.[5]

Vandana Shiva argues that the first stage of the corporate agricultural revolution - the Green Revolution, is largely responsible for the problem of vitamin A deficiency and blindness in Indian children,. The planting of monocultures of cash crops for sale on the international market has pushed biodiversity and hence nutrition to one side. The herbicides used to sustain modern crops are poisoning the leafy green vegetables which have traditionally been grown

[5] Monsanto, "Imagine," http://www.monsanto.com/ (25 May 2005).

alongside grain crops. Leafy green vegetables are high in beta-carotene, the precursor of vitamin A in the body.

Can The Market Decide the Fate of Agricultural Biotechnology?

Capitalist economists have boundless faith in the ability of the market to sort out all the problems caused by profiteering corporations. The ability of the market to decide, if it ever existed at all, is increasingly mythological in an era of monopoly capitalism in which a tiny number of corporations control the supply chain. Over the last 50 years an increasingly small number of corporations has been different parts of the supply chain within their businesses. The same corporations are often involved in the supply of raw materials to farmers, the processing of farm products and their marketing. Furthermore these corporations are globalize their operations so as to escape governmental regulation and to source the cheapest labour and raw materials. In this integrated global market it makes little sense to rely on consumer power to decide the fate of biotech. Furthermore, the high cost of capital investment in biotechnology means that only the most powerful and wealthy corporations are able to participate in its development. It is these same corporations who stand to benefit the most.[6]

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[6] Heffernan, *op. cit.*.

Fighting Back Against Corporate Power

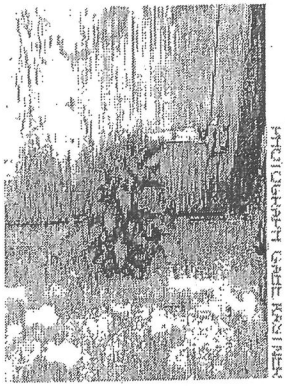
The current focus on biotechnology at universities throughout the world is no accident. Corporations and servile governments have deliberately pushed aside discussion of alternative, democratic and ecologically sustainable technologies in favour of research and teaching in corporate biotechnology and genetics. Alternative approaches to science and technology exist. In the field of agriculture, proponents of organic farming, biodynamics and permaculture are demonstrating the viability of alternative technology today. In Wollongong a loose network of permaculturists has established a community garden at the North Wollongong PCYC. This garden is an attempt to demonstrate the viability of alternative agricultural methods today.

There are as many ways to fight back against corporate control as their are people willing to do so. Global capitalism seeks to establish monocultures not only in agriculture but in our hearts and minds. In contrast to this totalising vision we must create global networks of struggle and resistance. Tactics which have been employed against corporate biotech include: pressuring governments, spreading information, imagining alternative solutions, street protests, direct actions such as tearing up biotech crops, circulating petitions, holding debates, legal actions, illegal actions, seed saving, guerilla gardening and many others.

Guerilla Gardening

Before capitalism was able to develop people had to be evicted from their lands. The enclosure of the common lands was one of the most

violent acts in the history of capitalism. Today, even the memory of a common right to land has faded in the advanced capitalist countries, although indigenous people in many parts of the world are still fighting to defend their common land. In fighting corporate agriculture and biotechnology many activists are taking part in actions which embody the future we are working towards. Guerilla gardening is a strategy to take back the commons by expropriating unused urban land and using it to produce food and flowers. Guerilla gardeners scout out areas of land which for one reason or another are not being used for productive purposes and plant seeds and plants. This action is both symbolic, as it questions the ownership of land by private interests and practical in that it produces food for the whole community to enjoy.



The guerilla gardeners' handiwork.

Toronto Public Space Committee - Guerilla Gardening
http://publicspace.ca/gardeners.htm

Primal Seeds
http://www.primalseeds.org/guerrilla.htm

Brazil's Landless Workers Movement
http://www.mstbrazil.org/

For More Information

The internet is a wonderful source of news and views on corporate globalisation. Searching the web using words such as 'protest' 'direct action' and 'biotech' will give a large number of hits. Some specific websites current as of the 25 May 2005 include:

Biodevestation to Biojustice
http://www.biodev.org/

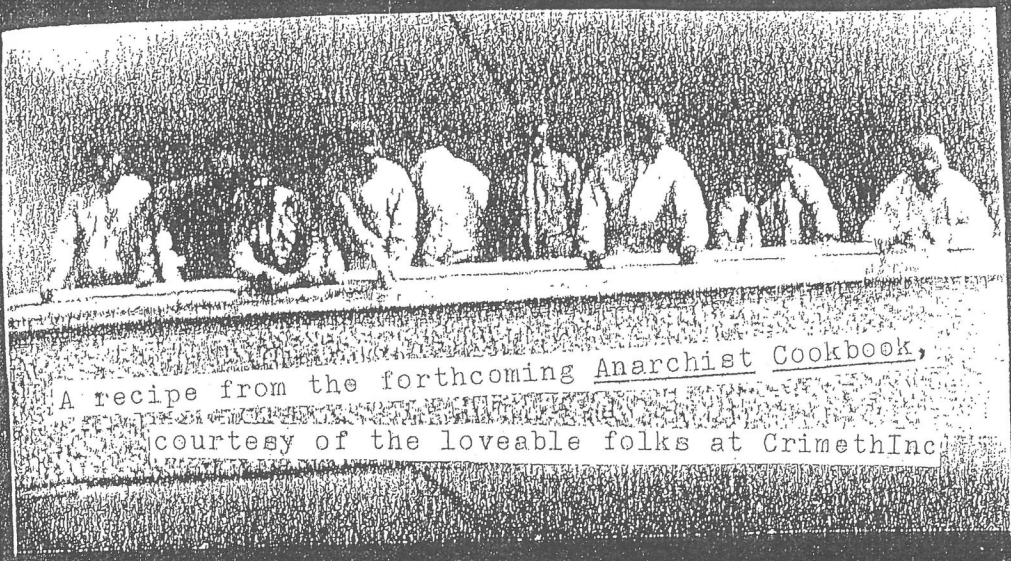
Squatting GE Test Sites
http://www.primalseeds.org/cropsquat.htm

Online Biotechnology Activism
http://www.ffcf.bc.ca/bcbc/bcbclink.htm

veganarky.net

HOW TO BAKE AN

AFFINITY GROUP



A recipe from the forthcoming Anarchist Cookbook,
courtesy of the loveable folks at CrimethInc

Materials:

A circle of friends
Trust
Consensus
Secrecy
A good idea
Plans for different scenarios
Structures to respond to unexpected scenarios
A little courage (may be optional, but should be on hand just in case)
Action!
Subsequent discussion

How many people should comprise an affinity group?

Size can range from two to, say, fifteen individuals, depending on the action in question; but no group should be so numerous that an informal conversation about pressing matters is impossible. You can always split up into two or more groups, if there are enough of you.

Is the affinity group a permanent arrangement?

No, an affinity group is a structure of convenience, ever mutable, assembled from the pool of interested and trusted people for the duration of a given project. Once assembled, this group may choose to be "closed," if security dictates; that is, whatever goes on within the group is never spoken of outside it, even after all its other activities are long completed. A particular team can act together over and over as an affinity group, but the members can also participate in other affinity groups, break up into smaller affinity groups, and act outside the affinity group structure.

Chances are, even if you have never been involved in direct action before, even if this is the first radical text you have ever encountered, that you are already part of an affinity group—the structure proven most effective for guerrilla activities of all kinds. An affinity group is simply a circle of friends who, knowing each other's strengths, weaknesses, and life histories, and having already established a common language and healthy internal dynamics, sets out to accomplish a goal or series of goals.

Affinity groups can be practically invincible. They cannot be infiltrated, because all members share history and intimacy with each other, and no one outside the group need be informed of their plans or activities. They are more efficient than the most professional military force: they are free to adapt to any situation; they need not pass their decisions through any complicated process of ratification; all individuals can act and react instantly without waiting for orders, yet with a clear idea of what to expect from one another. The mutual admiration and inspiration they are founded upon makes them almost impossible to demoralize. In stark contrast to capitalist, fascist, and communist structures, they function without any need for hierarchy or coercion: participation in an affinity group can be fun as well as effective. Most important of all, they are motivated by shared desire and loyalty, rather than profit, duty, or any other compensation or abstraction: small wonder whole squads of riot police have been held at bay by small affinity groups armed with only the tear gas canisters shot at them.

Affinity groups operate on the consensus model: decisions are made collectively, based on the needs and desires of every individual involved. Democratic votes, in which the majority get their way and the minority must hold their tongues, are anathema to affinity groups: if a group is to function smoothly and hold together, every individual involved must be satisfied. In advance of any action, the members of a group establish together what their personal and collective goals are, what their readiness for risk is (as individuals and as a group), and what their expectations of each other are. These matters determined, they formulate a plan.

Since action situations are always unpredictable and plans rarely come off as anticipated, an affinity group usually has a dual approach to preparing for these. On the one hand, plans are made for different scenarios: *if A happens, we'll inform each other by X means and switch to plan B; if X means of communication is impossible, we'll reconvene at site Z at Q o'clock.* On the other hand, structures are put in place that will be useful even if what happens resembles none of the imagined scenarios: internal roles are divided up, communications systems (such as two-way radios, or coded phrases for conveying secret information or instructions aloud) are established, general strategies (for maintaining composure, keeping sight of one another in confusing environments, or blocking police charges, to name some examples) are prepared, emergency escape routes are charted, legal support is readied in case anyone gets arrested. After an action, a shrewd affinity group will meet (again, if necessary, in a secure location) to discuss what went well, what could have gone better, and what comes next.

An affinity group answers to itself alone—this is one of its great strengths. Affinity groups are not burdened by the procedural protocol of other organizations, the difficulties of reaching accord among strangers or larger numbers of people, or the limitations of answering to a body not immediately involved in the action. At the same time, just as the members of an affinity group strive for consensus with each other, each affinity group should strive for a similarly considerate relationship with other individuals and groups—or, at the very least, to complement others' approaches wherever possible, even if these others do not recognize the value of their contribution. People should be thrilled about the participation or intervention of affinity groups, not resent or fear them; they should come to recognize the value of the affinity group model, and so come to apply it themselves, from seeing it succeed and from benefiting from that success.

An affinity group can work together with other affinity groups, in what is sometimes called a cluster. The cluster formation enables a larger number of individuals to act with the same advantages a single affinity group has. If speed or secrecy is called for, representatives of each group can meet ahead of time, rather than the entirety of all groups; if coordination is of the essence, the groups or representatives can arrange methods for communicating through the heat of the action. Over years of collaborating together, different affinity groups can come to know each other as well as they know themselves, and become accordingly more comfortable and capable together.

When several clusters of affinity groups need to coordinate especially massive actions—for a big demonstration, for example—they can hold a spokes-council meeting. In this author's humble experience, the most effective, constructive spokes-councils are those that limit themselves to providing a forum in which different affinity groups and clusters can inform one another (to whatever extent is wise) of their intentions, rather than seeking to direct activity or dictate principles for all. Such an unwieldy format is ill-suited to lengthy discussion, let alone debate; and whatever decisions are made, or limitations imposed, by such a spokes-council will inevitably fail to represent the wishes of all involved. The independence and spontaneity

[illegible] with an enemy that has all the other

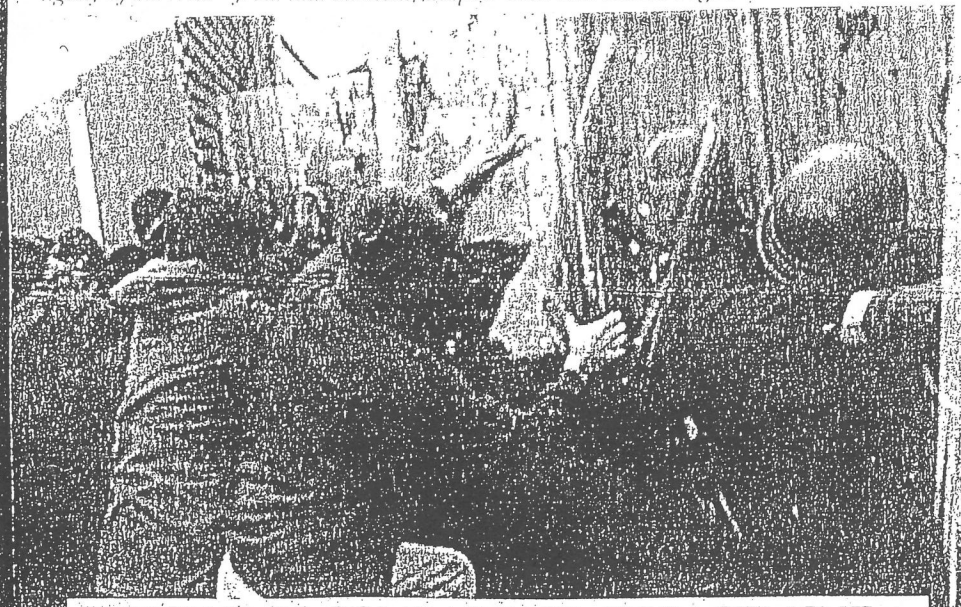
The affinity group is not only a vehicle for changing the world—like any good anarchist practice, it is also a model for alternative worlds, and a seed from which such worlds can grow. In an anarchist economy, decisions are not made by boards of directors, nor tasks carried out by masses of worker drones: affinity groups, circles of friends who share common needs and interests, decide and act together. Indeed, the affinity group/cluster/spokes-council model is simply another incarnation of the communes and worker's councils which formed the backbone of earlier successful (however short-lived) anarchist revolutions.

Not only is the affinity group the best format for getting things done, it's practically essential. You should always attend any event that might prove exciting in an affinity group—not to mention the ones that won't be, otherwise! Without a structure that encourages ideas to flow into action, without friends with whom to brainstorm and barnstorm and build up momentum, you are paralyzed, cut off from much of your own potential: with them, you are multiplied by ten, or ten thousand! "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world," as Margaret Mead wrote: "it's the only thing that ever has." She was referring, whether she knew the jargon or not, to affinity groups. If every individual in every action against the state and status quo participated as part of a tight-knit, dedicated affinity group, this revolution would be over in a few short years.

You don't need to find a revolutionary organization to join to get active—you and your friends already comprise one! Together, you can change the world. Stop wondering what's going to happen, or why nothing's happening, and start deciding *what will happen*. Don't just show up at the next demonstration, protest, punk show, traffic jam, or day at work in passive spectator mode, waiting to be told what to do or entertained. Get in the habit of trading crazy ideas about what should happen at these events— and of making those ideas reality!

An affinity group could be a sewing circle, a bicycle maintenance collective, or a traveling clown troupe: it could come together for the purpose of starting a local chapter of Food Not Bombs, discovering how to turn a bicycle into a record player, or forcing a multinational corporation out of business through a carefully orchestrated program of sabotage. Affinity groups have planted and defended community gardens, burned down and built and squatted buildings, organized neighborhood childcare programs and wildcat strikes; individual affinity groups routinely initiate revolutions in the visual arts and popular music. Your favorite band—they were an affinity group. It was an affinity group that invented the airplane. Another, composed of disgruntled Nietzsche enthusiasts, nearly succeeded in assassinating Adolph Hitler during the second world war.

Let five girls and boys meet who are resolved to the lightning of action rather than the quiet agony of survival from that moment, despair ends and tactics begin.



AUTONOMY, COMRADERIE, ENGAGEMENT—
ALL POWER TO THE AFFINITY GROUPS!

THOSE WHO MAKE PEACEFUL REVOLUTION IMPOSSIBLE

MAKE VIOLENT REVOLUTION

INEVITABLE

- J.F.K.

Contacts, Dates & What the Fuck is Going On?

Saturdays 2-6ish: Discussion and preparation space for Forbes
- At the Nunnery (40 Forbes St Newtown)
- Food coops doing food and drink...
- It is also a space to meet people for forming potential affinity groups, discussions about what sort of protesting you want to do and why etc...

Subplot - August 26-29 at Newtown Neighbourhood Centre
- Subplot: a convergence of anarchistic ideas and actions
- A gathering of people for discussion, meeting, workshops, and whatever takes your fancy.....
-bits on.... anarchafeminism, anti-racism, practical guerilla art, environmental justice and the corporate take-over of Iraq. And lots more.
- The last day (Monday 29th, and day before Forbes) will be set aside to, hopefully, put the ideas, networks and affinities developed at Subplot into practice — in preparation for the Forbes Protests.
- it all starts with a launch party on the Friday night.
-Contact Dave (0412 372 131) or Bec (0419 122 882) for more info. Or email **mutineers@graffiti.net**

Public Meeting/forum- Wollongong uni, 18th august- plan actions, general discussions – contact Alexander for details

Action-30 August-2 September at the opera house, circular quay and throughout the city

Alexander (Wollongong) abj262@uow.edu.au
Holly (Sydney) 0417682541
James (Sydney) 0431122026
www.30a.org

thursday film nights @ the nunnery (Forbes St newtown)

SABOTAGE

SOLIDARITY

REVOLUTION